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Department of State — INCOMING TELEGRAM

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ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 NSCE-00 SCO-00
ICAE-00 INRE-00 SY-05 ACDA-12 DOT-02 /077 W
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O R 212130Z JAN 80
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6444
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PN
DIA WASHDC

C O N F I O E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 0467

ASUNCION FOR AMBASSADOR WHITE ONLY; GUATEMALA FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY BOWDLER

E.O. 12065: GDS 1/21/85 (DEVEIN, FRANK J) OR-M
TAGS: PINS PINT SHUM ES PINR
SUBJ: (C) ARCHBISHOP HARSHLY CRITICIZES POC-ARMED FORCE GOVERNMENT AND EXPRESSES HOPE IN POPULAR ORGANIZATION UNITY

2. (U) ARCHBISHOP DIVIDED REMARKS INTO THREE PARTS, CHARACTERIZING AND COMMENTING ON (1) OLIGARCHY, (2) POC-ARMED FORCE GOVERNMENT, AND (3) POPULAR ORGANIZATIONS. REGARDING OLIGARCHY, ARCHBISHOP SAID IT WAS USING ALL OF ITS POWER TO FIGHT STRUCTURAL CHANGES AND TO DEFEND ITS OLD, SELFISH ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL INTERESTS. HE OBSERVED OLIGARCHY HAD BEEN ABLE TO CAPTURE CERTAIN PART OF PRIVATE AND MILITARY SECTORS AND TOOK NOTE OF RUMOR THAT MERCENARIES HAD BEEN CONTRACTED.

3. (U) ARCHBISHOP SAID HE COULD NOT APPROVE ACTIONS OF OLIGARCHY AND IN FACT DISCREDITED (DISAUTORIZAR) THEM. THEY WERE DECREASING POSSIBILITY OF PEACEFUL SOLUTION. HE REFURRED TO MEDELLIN THESIS THAT THOSE RESORTING TO EXCESSES TO DEFEND THEIR INTEREST WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR ENSUING VIOLENCE, AND AS IN PAST CITED POPE JOHN PAUL SECOND'S COMMENT THAT OVER ALL PRIVATE PROPERTY HANGS A SOCIAL MORGAGE.

4. (U) TURNING TO THE POC-ARMED FORCE GOVERNMENT, ARCHBISHOP ROMERO STATED THAT IT AS OF YET HAD BEEN INCAPABLE OF GAINING ADHERENCE OF POPULAR ORGANIZATIONS AND WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR MASSACRES AND REPRESSION IN PARTS OF COUNTRY. HE SAID POC AND OTHER PARTICIPANTS IN GOVERNMENT SHOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT ANALYSIS BY RECENTLY RESIGNED CABINET THAT POSSIBILITIES FOR REFORM TO ESTABLISH A DEMOCRATIC REGIME AND AUTHENTIC SOCIAL JUSTICE HAD BEEN EXHAUSED WITH PRECENT MILITARY HIERARCHY. HE CALLED FOR DIALOGUE WITH POPULAR AND DEMOCRATIC ORGANIZATIONS TO FORM A BROAD FRONT, NOT WITH THE ARMED FORCE, BUT WITH MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE.

5. (U) BASING HIS COMMENTS ON RECENT INCIDENTS IN ARCATAO, ARCHBISHOP ROUNDLY DENOUNCED REPRESSION TAKING PLACE. HE READ LETTER FROM CAMPESINO DESCRIBING "CRUEL ATTACKS" AS WELL AS ONE FROM GROUP OF SOLIDER S WHICH IN ADDITION TO ASKING FOR IMPROVEMENT OF THEIR PHYSICAL LOT, ALSO ASKED THAT THEY NOT BE SENT TO REPRESS PUBLIC (THIS BROUGHT LONG, SUSTAINED APPLAUSE FROM AUDIENCE) AND THAT THEY BE GIVEN REASONS BEFORE BEING SENT INTO COMBAT. THEY ALSO ASKED THAT ONLY CHIEFS AND OFFICERS BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR REPRESSION, AND THAT COMMON SOLDIERS NOT BE CONDEMNED FOR BEING FORCED TO ENGAGE IN ACTIONS IN SUPPORT OF THE "RICH".

6. (U) ARCHBISHOP STATED THAT JUNTA SHOULD ORDER IMMEDIATE, EFFECTIVE CESSATION OF REPRESSION, THAT IT AND THE MILITARY ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR CURRENT BLOODSHED. HE CONCLUDED THAT IF GOVERNMENT WANTS TO SAVE ITSELF, IT MUST AMPUTATE "THE SOONER THE BETTER, THE PUTRID PART, TO SAVE THE SOUND".

7. (U) REGARDING POPULAR ORGANIZATIONS, ARCHBISHOP NOTED THEY ARE MOVING TOWARD UNITY AND APPEALING FOR FORMATION OF BROAD AND POWERFUL FRONT, BUT HAD NOT YET ACHIEVED ADHERENCE OF ALL DEMOCRATIC FORCES TRYING TO AVOID BLOODSHED. HOWEVER, ARCHBISHOP SAID HE LOOKED WITH HOPE TOWARD THEIR EFFORTS, THAT THEY WOULD CREATE AN OPEN ATTITUDE AND DIALOGUE TO REACH THE PEOPLE. HE CONDEMNED "HYPOCRITIC" DENUCIATIONS OF COMMUNISM TO ATTACK POPULAR ORGANIZATIONS.

8. (U) ARCHBISHOP CONTINUED THAT SAME AS WITH GOVERNMENT, WORDS WERE NOT SUFFICIENT; THERE MUST BE DEEDS. HE DECRIED THE FRANTIC SHOUTING AND DEMOGOGERY OF THE POPULAR ORGANIZATIONS AND CALLED UPOM THEM TO HALT "FREQUENTLY SENSELESS" ACTS OF VIOLENCE AND TERRORISM THT WERE BRINGING REACTION AGAINST LEGITIMATE GOALS. HE EXPRESSED HOPE POPULAR ORGANIZATIONS ARE MATURING AND WILL KEEP IN MIND DEVELOPMENT OF FAITH AND VALUES OF THE POEPLE AS WELL AS RESPECT FOR CHURCH AND RIGHT TO WORSHIP.

9. (U) FINALLY, ARCHBISHOP CALLED UPON NON-COMMITTED MASSES TO CEASE THEIR PASSIVITY AND ORGANIZE FOR REFORM. AGAIN, AS HE HAS DONE PREVIOUSLY, ARCHBISHOP CITED MEDELLIN ADMONISHMENT THAT THOSE WHO REMAIN PASSIVE ALSO SHARE RESPONSIBILITY FOR SOCIAL INJUSTICES. HE SAID HE WAS NOT CALLING UP THEM TO ENTER INTO ANY PARTICULAR ORGANIZATION, BUT THAT THEY SHOULD RETAIN THEIR CHRISTIAN VALUES AND USE THEIR CRITICIAL SENSE TO ACT FOR COMMON GOOD OF COUNTRY.
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/HR
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PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

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